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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/687,813

10/13/2000

Roger N. Anderson

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03/04/2004

Baker Botts LLP
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EXAMINER

MCELHENY JR, DONALD E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2857

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/687,813

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Donald E. McElheny, Jr.

Art Unit

2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,12-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 October 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is too long. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

3. The drawings are objected to as being informal for reasons set forth by the Office Draftsperson on form PTO-948. Applicants are reminded that the drawings must meet the requirements under 37 CFR 1.83 (a) and 1.84, as each and every claim element must be found in the drawings as required by 37 CFR 1.83(a), 1.84(h) & (j), and MPEP 608.02(d), and also the drawings and specification must describe, show and correspond for all components shown or discussed as required by 37 CFR 1.84(p). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, including not only claimed structure but also all method, algorithm and program related steps within some form of flowchart(s).

Furthermore, the various depicted items of each figure must be referenced by reference numerals and corresponding numerals occur in the written description where

the shown subject matter is described in the written specification. All material items depicted in the figures must be referenced in the written specification, and vice-versa.

If amendment of the figures is required then note no new matter is permitted to be added to the drawings.

Applicant is advised that when submitting a proposed drawing correction any proposal by applicant for amendment of the drawings to cure defects must consist of two parts:

- a) A separate letter to the Draftsman in accordance with MPEP 608.02(r); and
- b) A print or pen-and-ink sketch showing changes in red ink in accordance with MPEP 608.02(v).

Appropriate and timely correction of the drawings is required in response to this Office action or this application will be held abandoned.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Bilden et al. (6,012,016).

For claims 12-14 note the reference teaches that a server manages data transfer and communications over a network between the plural data processing sites and software components. Features of claims 12-14 would be inherent as routinely provided by such a server.

2. Claims 3-11, 23, 24 are objected to as being based upon rejected claims but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

3. Prior art not applied is cited as meeting broader claims or claim features. Tubel et al. (6,434,435 and 5,959,547) and Harvey et al. (6,519,568) all teach optimizing reservoir field production by software tools accessible by users over a distributed network.

4. Any questions regarding the Draftsman's receipt and approval of outstanding drawing correction requirements should be directed to telephone number (703) 305-8126.

Any inquiry touching on the merits of this application concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald McElheny Jr., whose telephone number is (571) 272-2218. Fax transmissions may be directed to (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9000.

If attempts to reach the Examiner are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff, can be reached at (571) 272-2216.


DONALD E. McELHENY, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER